

Priceless

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COASTAL FISHERMAN

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The weeks leading up to the full moon in June tend to be the best time of year to catch big boomers in the Delaware Bay and this year the bite seems to be centered around the Coral Beds. That is where Kyle McLaughlin of Bear, DE muscled in this 69.3 lb. black drum last weekend while using clams for bait. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Ask a Pro

Captain Gary Stamm

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Q: What are a few things you do before you determine the location where you will start offshore trolling for tuna, dolphin and wahoo for the day?

**Joshua Gainey
Havre de Grace, MD**

A: A lot of work goes into determining where we are going to fish on a given day, and most of the effort is done before we even leave the dock.

Like any sport, having a team that works well together is the key to success, and offshore fishing is not any different. Having a network of captains who share information is critical to finding the best location to drop the lines. I am always keeping in touch with other captains, sharing

information not only about good fishing locations, but other critical information as well. Did they find a good temperature break? Was there a good amount of bait in the area? At what depth in the water column were they marking fish?

I not only check in with other charter boat captains, but I also touch base with some smaller, private boat fishermen as well.

Before the trip, analyzing the sea temperature charts is critical. You can't just look at these charts for one day. It's best to review them for several days before your trip to see any patterns. Where are the temperature breaks? How fast is the water moving? Is it moving inshore or offshore, north or south?

I also check the daily

fishing reports on the *Coastal Fisherman* website as well as from the marinas.

The night before the trip, I usually meet with a group of captains to come up with our strategy for the day. If we find that the fish are feeding at a specific depth, then the group of us will spread out, up and down the line along the depth, so we can cover the largest area possible. After that we maintain constant contact with each other until the fish are located and everyone can get in on the action. I'll also be scanning 6 to 10 channels on my radio, listening for information from other offshore boats.

Once I start heading offshore, when I get to 20 to 30 fathoms I really start paying attention. I set the alarm on my sounder for temperature

breaks or just a specific temperature. Setting the alarm for temperature breaks is crucial since I have had some of my best days on very subtle breaks, as little as a couple of tenths of a degree.

Here's a tip: When the bite is offshore, say in 100 fathoms, I see a lot of boats stop at around 30 to 35 fathoms when they run across some bait. A lot of the time you may mark the bait there, but there are no fish underneath. What I like to do is mark that location on my GPS. If I do stop, it's only for 15 minutes. No bites, I head to my original

continued on page 4

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Ask a Pro continued:

targeted location, but I may save that inshore location for later that afternoon. Basically, why stop short if you know the bite is just a little further offshore?

Another common mistake I see is when the bite is in 100 fathoms and a boat will stop in 40 fathoms and troll out to the location of the bite. By the time they get there the bite is over. They get there too late.

As I get closer to my targeted location, I get my binoculars out. A good set of binoculars can really save you on many days. You don't necessarily need to have the binoculars with stabilizers. A good pair of basic binoculars will do just fine. When scanning the ocean, I look for anything out of the ordinary. Items floating in the water, chick birds diving and pecking at bait, flying fish, slicks, busting bait, water color and boats congregated in one specific area.

So, the first thing I am

looking for is a good temperature break. Like I said earlier, it could be as little as a couple of tenths of a degree. I also really don't have ideal temperatures for specific fish because they are unpredictable. One day they will be feeding on the warm side of a break (blue water) and the next day they are on the cold side (green water).

I also love to fish structure. If I don't find a good temperature break, then I fish structure. If I have both, than I know I have a chance for a very good day. Any kind of broken, uneven bottom causes upwelling and this can create a "bait motel". The bait gets caught in this upwelling and here come the tuna, dolphin, wahoo and marlin.

Obviously, finding bait is key to finding fish. All of your good boats have excellent electronics. I am constantly checking my depth finder for balls of baits or specific marks of fish. However, if I am not marking any bait (squid,

sardines, etc), I will look for a spot along a temperature break that has some structure close by. Again, temperature and structure are two very important components when trying to find bait and/or fish.

When trolling over structure, pay close attention to the direction you are trolling when you get your bites. It's weird, some days you will get your bite when trolling at a 90-degree angle to the ledge as opposed to trolling parallel to it. Other days it's the exact opposite.

I hope this answers your question, Joshua. Basically, do your homework in advance. Look for good temperature breaks. Keep an eye out for anything out of the ordinary. Look for structure and find the bait. Find the bait and you find the fish... most of the time.

Tight lines!

Do you have a question for a local pro? Email your question to coastalfisherman@comcast.net. Don't forget to include your name, town and phone number.



Lyle Davis of Greenwood, DE took advantage of the good striper bite off Cape Henlopen State Park, landing this 40-inch that weighed 21 lbs. 10 oz. at Bill's Sport Shop.



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Snapper bluefish were really snapping around the Rt. 50 Bridge last week when Big Bird Cropper and Dave Leizear, both from Powellville, MD, caught a cooler full. Dave even landed a 33-inch striper during the trip. All of the fish were caught on Roy rigs.

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Kaila Tatman was fishing with clams at the Coral Beds in the Delaware Bay when she hooked into this 37 lb. black drum. Kaila was fishing on the "Martha Marie" and weighed her catch at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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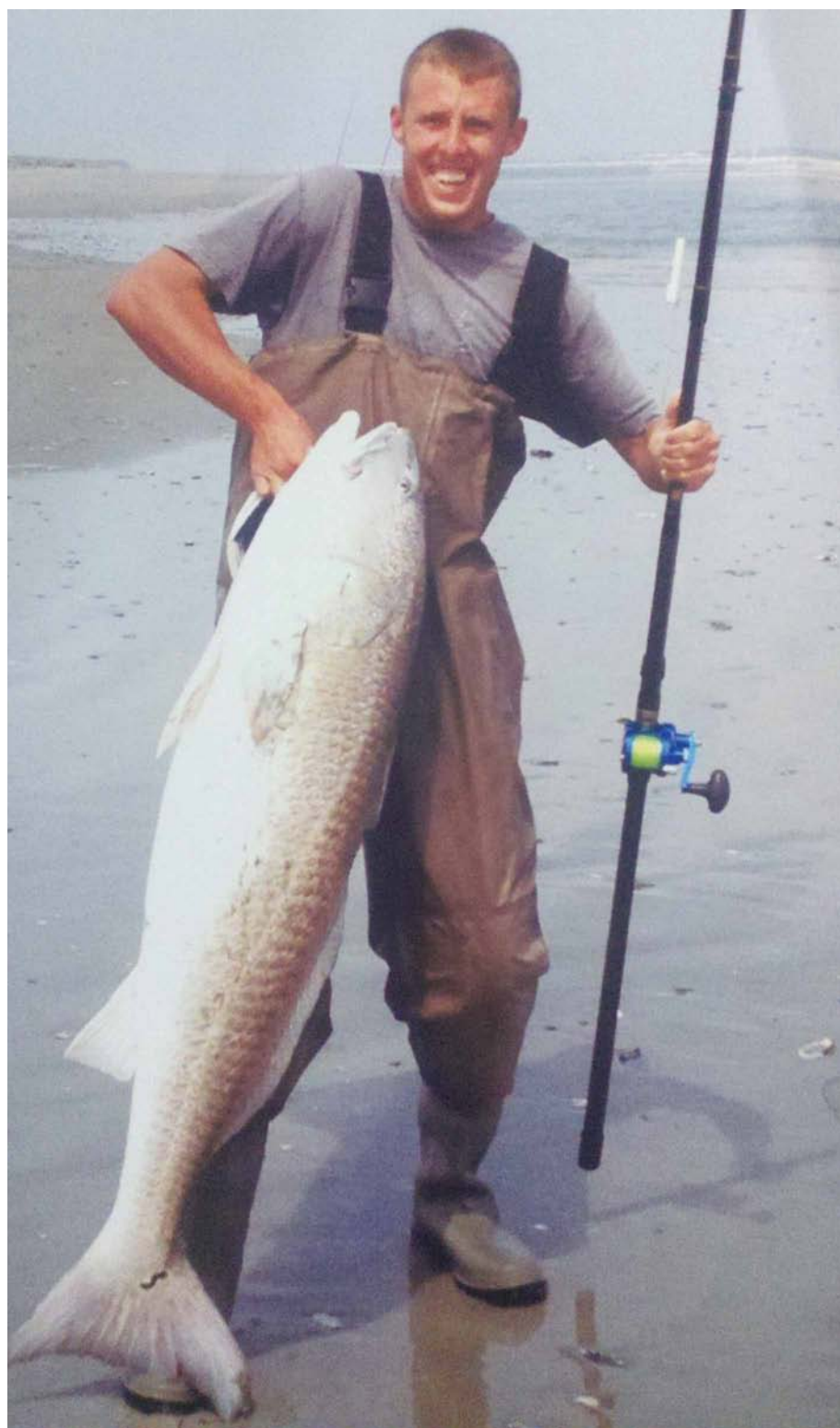
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Trevor West of Millsboro, DE was fishing off a Virginia barrier island when he caught and released this 53-inch red drum while using peelers for bait. Photo courtesy of Rattle and Reel Sporting Center.

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John Bello from Ashburn, VA was fishing at night with fresh bunker off Assateague Island when he hooked into this 34-inch striped bass. Pictured at Ake Marine in West Ocean City.



Offshore bottomfishing was good on this day when Bill Swords, Pete Corbo, John Rossi, Dave Reeves and John Bixler returned with a catch of blackbellied rosefish, blueline tilefish, golden tilefish and some bluefish. All of the fish were caught in the Baltimore Canyon. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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Ocean City Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



A couple of times every season you have a week where you could write the fishing report on the back of a matchbook. Well, unfortunately last week was one of those weeks due to some nasty weather from a Nor'easter.

Flounder

Flounder fishing was T-O-U-G-H last week. The never-ending wind and just plain ole' nasty weather really created dirty water throughout the bay. Some nice fish were caught before the Nor'easter, like Matt Papthakis' 21 1/2-inch hooked in the East Channel.

On Saturday, Paul DiForte was fishing on the "Bay Bee" and caught a 22 1/2-inch flounder in the bay behind Assateague near #14.

Also over the weekend, when the wind was really whipping, the MSSA/Ocean Pines Anglers Club held their Flounder Frenzy with 33 anglers participating. Only 2 flatties were caught during the two-day tournament with Tom Breen coming in first with a 22 1/4-inch that tipped the scales at 4.85 lbs. In second place was JoAnn Shelly with a 17 1/4-inch flounder that weighed almost 2 lbs. Some good flounder fishermen participated in this tournament, so with only 2 fish



With windy weather and rough water, not many flounder were caught in the bay last week, but Matt Papathakis of Baltimore, MD was able to catch a nice 21.5-inch on a Gulp! Swimming Mullet and shiner combination. The fish was hooked in the East Channel while fishing on the "CrabTips.com".

caught, it gives you an idea how bad flounder fishing was over the last 3-4 days.

Although you couldn't tell

from last week's action, the best flounder baits have been the Gulp! Alive Swimming Mullet in white, chartreuse or pink. If you don't like fishing with artificial baits, then bull

minnows or shiners are also effective.

Bluefish

Bay anglers, who have been struggling with flounder fishing, got a reprieve when the shad and bluefish moved into the bay. Unfortunately, the bad weather prevented them from really getting out to take advantage of the bite, especially around the Rt. 50 Bridge where the bluefish bite was getting pretty good around sundown. We were starting to see larger fish than we had seen during the previous week.

Tautog

Tautog regulations changed effective May 16th when anglers can now only keep 2 fish at a minimum size of 16-inches. This goes on until October 31st.

A few tog were caught on green crabs by anglers fishing off the 4th St. Bulkhead and also around the South Jetty (before the Nor'easter arrived).

Sea Bass

Sea bass season in Maryland opened on May 19th, three days earlier than originally planned. Unfortunately, the rough sea conditions prevented anglers from getting to their favorite sea bass grounds.

From what I have been hearing, sea bass are plentiful. Sites like the Great Eastern Reef, the subway cars at the Jackspot, the Bass Grounds and further north, around "B" Buoy have all been locations where anglers have reported great catch-and-release sea bass fishing this spring.

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inches and anglers are allowed to keep 25 fish per day.

In the Surf

We were seeing some nice striped bass and black drum being caught by surfcasters off the beach from Assateague to 3R's Road in Delaware. Unfortunately, the bad weather caused a very rough surf and it became almost impossible for anglers to hold the bottom.

The nicest catch we saw came in from Jim Thompson, who has had a very good spring season of striper fishing from the beach. On this day, mid-week, Jim weighed 2 beautiful stripers measuring 43 and 45-inches. They were plump too, weighing 29 and 34 lbs.

Offshore

It was a tough week for offshore fishermen, especially after some nice catches of yellowfin tuna arrived at the dock the previous weekend.

I know one boat, the "Restless Lady", attempted to head out on Saturday but

ended up turning around. If those boys turned around, you know it was rough!

Upcoming Tournaments

It's hard to believe Memorial Day is here already, but that means that the local tournament scene is ready to get into high gear.

The 3rd Annual Ocean City Marlin Club Bluefish Tournament will be held on May 26 & 27, with weigh-in's at Sunset Marina from 3:30 PM to 6:00 PM. This is a bluefish-only tournament and you don't have to be an Ocean City Marlin Club member to participate.

Right on the heels of the Bluefish Tournament is the 16th Annual Mid-Atlantic Mako Mania Tournament held at Bahia Marina. The three-day event will run from June 1st to June 3rd with weigh-in's from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM each day. Although it is primarily a mako shark tournament, there are added entry levels for bluefish and thresher sharks.

See you at the scales!



This 40-inch striper fell at the hands of Thomas Godusky from Emmaus, PA. Thomas was fishing with clams from the surf off Fenwick Island, DE and weighed the 19 lb. 14 oz. fish at Fenwick Tackle.

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Jim Thompson has caught some big stripers this year as shown by the pair he landed while fishing from the beach off Fenwick Island, DE. Jim's fish came in at 43-inches, 29 lbs. and 45-inches, 34 lbs. Both were caught using bunker heads and clams for bait. Photo courtesy of Oyster Bay Tackle.

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Dylan Churchill caught 3 flounder while fishing in the Lewes Canal with his dad, D.J. Churchill. The duo also had 9 throwbacks during the trip while drifting jigs tipped with shiners. Photo courtesy of Lewes Harbour Marina.

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2012 - 230 CC F250 Yamaha 4-stroke, Loaded Boat, T-Top Hard Top, Compass, Low Profile Grab Rail, Fresh & Raw Water, Full Cushion set for 10 adults, Stereo & Electronics, LED Lights, Anchor Pulpit, Blue w/White Bottom & more	\$50,990

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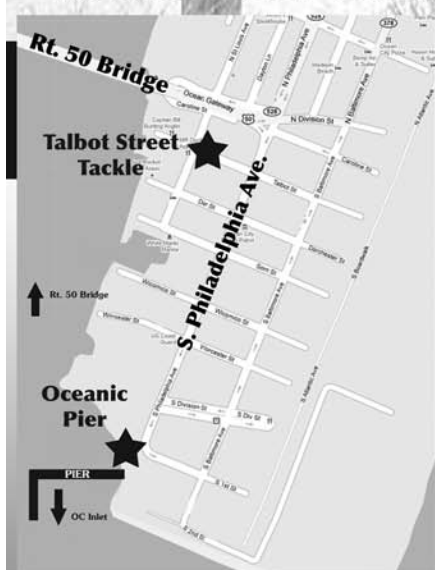


The striped bite around sunrise in the Indian River Inlet has been a good one as shown by the 43.5-incher muscled in by John Lindsay from Dagsboro, DE. The 30 lb. 4 oz. beauty was hooked on a Storm lure and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters in South Bethany.

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Larry Coverdale and Candace Kidwell caught these flounder, weighing up to 3 lbs. 8 oz., while drifting with shiners in the Lewes Canal. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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This is the largest striper we have seen caught off the Ocean City Fishing Pier in a long, long time. Brian Mullhausen of Baltimore, MD landed the 47-inch on fresh bunker and watched it tip the scale at an even 33 lbs. at Buck's Place on Rt. 611.



Ricky Knight took a trip down from Pottstown, PA and caught a 33-inch striper while surfcasting off Assateague at 1:00 in the morning. Ricky was using sand fleas for bait when he caught the linesider at the top of the high tide.

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— by Sue Foster



"I'm coming down for Memorial Weekend and want to wet a line!"

Coming on a busy holiday weekend to go fishing can be fun but cries for a little planning. Traffic, in itself can be an obstacle. A game plan in advance will make your fishing vacation more pleasant.

If you plan to take a trip out on a bay or ocean party boat it's a good idea to make reservations and ask in advance where you should park. The one nice thing about fishing on a party boat is that you don't need a fishing license and bait is usually provided. Study the ads in the *Coastal Fisherman* online at www.coastalfisherman.net. Hint: Go to "Issues" and click "Download this issue" so you can see all the ads.

Get up early! If you need to go to a bait and tackle store for bait or get a fishing license, go early in the day, get your business done and go to your fishing spot before all the other vacationers get up and out on the road. Ten until noon is usually the busiest time of day for a bait and tackle store on a holiday weekend and the absolute worst time to buy a fishing license. There will probably be a line at the fishing license computer. If you are at all savvy with a computer it wouldn't be a bad idea to get your license before coming to town on a busy holiday weekend. The Maryland site is <https://compass.dnr.maryland.gov/dnrcompassportal>. The toll free number for license and free registries is 855-855-3906. These numbers get very busy over a holiday weekend, so try to do it during the week before you come down.

If you can't get to the bait and tackle store early in the day, then try between 2 PM

and 4 PM. Evening hours between 5 PM and 7 PM are also busy, but if you aren't in a hurry and want to browse, a walk to the tackle store after dinner is not a bad idea. If you need to do time-consuming things like getting your reels re-spoiled, renting fishing rods, or you need to buy rods and reels and need to spend time talking to the salesman, try to avoid the busiest time of day or evening. Otherwise, be patient and browse.

That said, try to plan ahead and decide where you want to go fishing and when you want to do it. A lot of folks plan all kinds of activities and fishing is just one of them. Don't be afraid to use the bus system. For example, if you plan to go to the Oceanic Pier, where you do not need a license to fish, the bus could drop you right there and you wouldn't have to worry about getting a parking place. Any trip to a downtown fishing area such as the Inlet or Route 50 Bridge, where parking can be congested is a good time to use the bus! Carry your two-piece rods broken down and strapped together. Rig up after you get there. Swinging rigs with hooks on them is not a good idea on a crowded bus!

"I want to fish somewhere close to the motel!"

The ocean is never far away! The whole beach is available to surf anglers before 10 AM and after 5:30 PM when the lifeguards are off duty. The beach is easy to fish and you rarely lose rigs due to snags. All you need is a fishing rod that is at least 7-foot long that will cast just beyond the crest of the waves. There are stripers, snapper blues, sand sharks, skates and rays. You may also catch a kingfish, trout or blowfish as well. Cut bait such as bunker, mullet or squid, or good old fashioned

bloodworms or Artificial Fishbites will work if you use smaller hooks. Be sure to use pyramid type sinkers so your bait stays out there. Bay type sinkers with rounded edges will roll back in! Surf fishing is very relaxing and something the whole family can do together. Be sure to carry a sand spike for your rod so it doesn't fall in the sand. If you need to buy a surf rod and reel, starter outfits are not expensive. Buy a combo in the 8 to 11 foot range.

"I just want to take the kids out for a few hours on the bayside!"

Again, go early before the traffic gets heavy. This time of year, the downtown bayside areas are best for fishing. The 9th Street Pier, the bulkhead between 2nd and 4th Streets, the Route 50 Bridge, the Inlet Pier and the Oceanic Pier are all good. Fishing in the Inlet is good for adults, but I wouldn't take young children on the rock jetty. Shiners or minnows are the baits for flounder. Squid will catch about anything. Green crabs and sand fleas will catch tautog. High/low rigs with round or bank sinkers are best in the bay. Buy extra rigs and sinkers so you don't have to drive around looking for a bait shop!

Night fishing is always a great idea on a busy holiday weekend. The beach is open until midnight. The two downtown Piers (Ocean Pier and Oceanic Pier) and the Route 50 Bridge have lights shining on the water that attract bluefish, shad and stripers. Anglers using Gotcha Plugs, Spec Rigs and Swim Shad lures can have all kinds of action. Parking is your biggest obstacle on a busy weekend, so you may have to park in one of Ocean City's Municipal lots if you can't find a parking place on a side street.

The West Ocean City Park & Ride (12848 Ocean Gateway) which is located just west of the Route 50 Bridge offers FREE parking. From there you can walk to the Route 50 Bridge or take a shuttle bus to the South Division Street

Transit Center. From there you can walk 2-3 blocks to the inlet, Oceanic Pier, Ocean Pier or the beach near the Inlet or you could jump on one of Ocean City's buses and go to the Bulkhead between 2nd and 4th Street or to 9th Street Pier. Buses come by every 10-15 minutes and cost \$3 to ride all day or \$1 each boarding.

•Other parking lots downtown are located at:

•Worcester St., between Baltimore Ave. & Philadelphia Ave

•Somerset St. & Baltimore Ave.

•Dorchester St. & Baltimore Ave.

•N. Division St. & Baltimore Ave. (about 10 spaces)

•4th St. & Baltimore Ave.

•1st St. & St. Louis

If you come to Ocean City with your boat and trailer and need parking, you want to head to 100th St. on the bayside. This is a boat trailer approved lot. Fee for this lot is \$10 a day or \$50 a week.

The best place in West Ocean City is the Commercial Harbor ramp at the corner of Sunset Avenue and Golf Course Road.

Other places to launch your boat and leave your trailer for the day are:

•Assateague Island Park (Rt. 611 at Assateague Island Bridge)

•Gum Point Road (off Route 589)

Other places to launch where you can't leave your trailer:

•The Little Salisbury area at 87th St. and Bering Road - No trailer parking

•Boat ramp next to Smitty McGee's on Rt. 54 in Fenwick Island. It is called Bayville Marina. There is a fee to launch your boat. Call 302-436-5904.

Good fishing....

Sue Foster is an outdoor writer and owner of Oyster Bay Tackle in Ocean City, MD and Fenwick Tackle in Fenwick, DE.



Mike Shockley worked a bucktail along Broadkill Beach and hooked this 21 lb. 4 oz. striped bass. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



Eleven-year-old, Christopher Hendrickson of Mullica Township, NJ was fishing off Assateague Island when he captured his 34-inch striper. Photo courtesy of Buck's Place on Rt. 611.

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Becker takes 1st place in Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament



With a record turnout of 360 anglers there was some stiff competition in the Lewes Canal Flounder Tournament hosted by Lewes Harbour Marina and sponsored by the Dewey Beach Lions Club. Zach Becker won first place with a 6.11 lb. flattie, just beating out Jim Joseph who took second place with a 5.48 lb. flounder. Third place was won by Dan Baldwin with a 4.82 lb. fluke. Shea Lindale took fourth place with a 4.63 pounder, Buck McLamb ended up in fifth place with a 4.38 beauty, Jeff Becker finished in sixth place by landing a 4.21 lb. flounder and Dan Schurman wrapped up seventh place with a 4.15 lb. flattie. Twenty percent of the entry fees were donated to the Camp Awareness Youth Program, which promotes outdoor activities to area youngsters. Pictured at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Fred Traut is smiling on the inside after muscling in this 37-inch, 15 lb. 6 oz. *morone saxatilis* while fishing with peeler crabs off Herring Point. Weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



Gulshun Bowie from Rockville, MD landed this 34-inch striped bass while fishing with sand fleas off the beach on Assateague Island. Pictured at Buck's Place.

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Eric Comely from Newark, DE obviously hit a home run when he got married since his bride allowed him to go fishing on their wedding day. Eric fished off Cape Henlopen State Park and was rewarded with a 42-inch striper that weighed in at 31 lbs. 6 oz. The fish hit a chunk of fresh bunker and was weighed at Bill's Sport Shop.



This group of Ocean City anglers celebrated a birthday by catching 70 shad and a bluefish while fishing on the "Ocean City Guide Service" with Capt. John Prather. Pictured are Spencer Paquette, Charlie Brinker, Ayrton Pryor, Gavin Carmody and Jacob Cockman.

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On Saturday morning, Paul DiForte from Trappe, MD caught this 22.5-inch flounder while fishing on the "Bay Bee" with Capt. Mike Walsh and mates Spencer Cropper and Nate Thompson. Paul caught the fish on a squid and shiner combination behind Assateague Island near marker #14. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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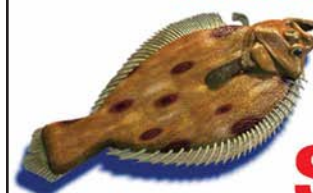
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Sami Smith from Heber Springs, Arkansas used a pink Gulp! Swimming Mullet to fool this 17-inch flounder while fishing with Capt. Jason Mumford on the "Lucky Break" in the Thorofare.

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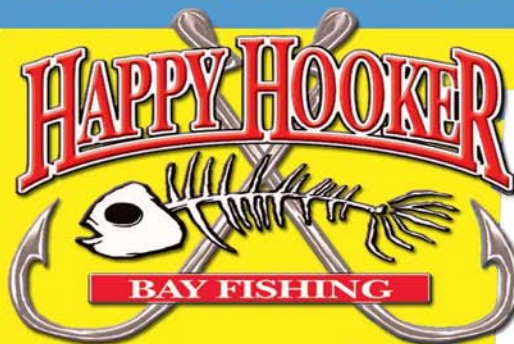
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Anglers on the "Reel Chaos" took a trip out to 300 fathoms in the Baltimore Canyon and were rewarded with 7 yellowfin tuna weighing between 40 and 50 lbs. The fish were all caught on trolled ballyhoo. Fishing with Capt. Anthony Matarese, Jr. and mates Mike Matarese and John Prather (not pictured) were Anthony Matarese, Sr. (not pictured), Amanda Matarese and John Comerford. Shown at the docks at Sunset Marina.

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The Clark boys had a good day striper fishing at the end of the north side of the Indian River Jetty. Frank's fish weighed 12 and 16 lbs. while brother Jeff's tipped the scale at 21.6 and 21.9 lbs. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.




Bill Doherty, Bob Fucature, Mike Ransing and John McCrae returned to the Indian River Marina with 4 yellowfin tuna in the box after fishing in the Baltimore Canyon aboard the "Free Spool". The yellowfins averaged 34 lbs. and were weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

REEL CHAOS

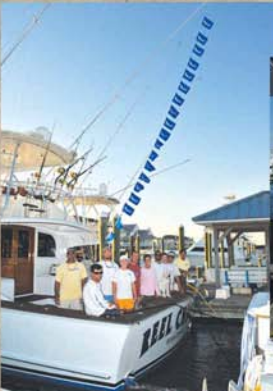


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Chris and Greg Wagner came across a good temperature break in 100 fathoms at the tip of the Baltimore Canyon where Ron Steen boated this 79.1 lb. bluefin tuna after hooking it on a green machine spreader bar. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

Marlin - Tuna - Shark
Dolphin - Wahoo - Bluefish

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Jim Lewis of Berlin, MD fished his shoes off, catching this 35-inch striper on a peeler crab off Assateague Island. Pictured at Buck's Place.

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South of the Baltimore Canyon, in 64-degree water was where Phil Williams, Kevin Hood and Joe Cangianelli landed these yellowfin tuna. The fish, weighing 36.2 lbs. and 37.4 lbs., were caught during an overnight trip and weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.



Pat Hurley from Aston, PA and Bo "Rod Hog" Smeltzer from Harrisburg, PA (pictured) were fishing on the "57 Chins" in 80-100 fathoms from the southern end of the Baltimore Canyon to the Poor Man's Canyon and ended up with 5 yellowfin tuna during their trip. The fish were caught on trolled ballyhoo in 66-67 degree water.

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Brian Shulman caught this 35 lb. golden tilefish while fishing over the edge of the Washington Canyon. Brian was fishing on the "CEVICHE" with Steve Magassy.



Fresh from the Tucker Colquhoun School of Tautog Fishing, valedictorian Josh Ruskey proudly displays his catch of a pair of 8 lb. tog hooked during a trip on the "Morning Star" with Capt. Monty Hawkins. Pictured at the Ocean City Fishing Center.

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Phil Radzikowski, Mark Buckingham, Chris King and Raymond Daigle, all from Woodbridge, VA caught 5 yellowfins and released 4 blue sharks during a trip to the Poor Man's Canyon. The anglers were fishing on the "At Ease" and are pictured at Bahia Marina.



Lacey Moffett landed this nice pair of stripers, measuring 34 and 36-inches, while casting off the beach at Herring Point. Lacey was using clams for bait and weighed her fish at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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The Galley

by Mama Jock



Flounder and Sweet Potato Chips

- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1 TBSP. dijon mustard
- 1 TBSP. fresh lemon juice
- Salt and pepper
- 1 cup Panko breadcrumbs
- 3 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes cut into 1/2-inch by 2-inch sticks
- 3 TBSP. flour
- 1 egg, beaten
- 3/4 pound of flounder, cut into 8 pieces

Preheat oven to 450 degrees.

In a small bowl combine the mayonnaise, mustard and lemon juice; season with salt and pepper.

On a rimmed baking sheet, combine the panko with 1 TBSP. of oil and 1/4 tsp. each of salt and pepper.

Spread evenly and bake, tossing occasionally, for about 5 minutes

Transfer to a bowl.

On the rimmed baking sheet, toss the sweet potatoes with the remaining 2 TBSP. of oil.

Season with salt and pepper.

Arrange in a single layer and bake, turning once, until

brown and tender, about 20 minutes.

In a shallow bowl combine the flour and 1/4 tsp. each of salt and pepper.

Pour the egg into another shallow bowl.

Working with 2 pieces at a time, coat the flounder in the flour mixture, dip in the egg, then coat with the breadcrumbs, pressing to adhere.

Place on a baking sheet and bake until cooked through.

Serve the fish with the mayonnaise dipping sauce and the sweet potatoes.

Serves 4.

Striped Bass with Artichokes and Olives

- 4 striped bass filets, 1 inch thick
- Salt and pepper
- 1 lemon
- 1 bunch parsley, leaves only (about 1 cup)
- 5 cloves garlic, smashed
- 4 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1/2 baguette, cubed
- 1 (10 oz.) package frozen artichoke hearts, thawed
- 1/2 cup pitted kalamata olives

3 small tomatoes, quartered

Preheat oven to 475 degrees.

Season fish with salt and pepper and refrigerate until ready to use.

Remove zest from the lemon using a vegetable peeler (reserve the lemon).

Combine the lemon zest, parsley, garlic, 2 TBSP. of olive oil and 1 tsp. of salt in a food processor.

With the motor running, gradually add the bread and pulse several times to make coarse crumbs.

Spread crumbs evenly in a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Arrange the artichokes, olives and tomatoes around the edge and bake until the exposed breadcrumbs in the middle are toasted, about 15 minutes.

Remove the baking dish from the oven.

Scoop out the toasted breadcrumbs and set aside.

Add the fillets to the baking dish and top with the toasted breadcrumbs.

Bake about 15 minutes or until cooked through.

Drizzle with the remaining 2 TBSP. olive oil.

Cut the reserved lemon into wedges and squeeze on top.

Serves 4.

Roasted Shrimp and Orzo

- Kosher salt
- Olive oil
- 3/4 pound orzo pasta (rice shaped pasta)
- 1/2 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice (3 lemons)
- Pepper
- 2 lbs. (16 to 18 count) shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 cup scallions, white and green parts, minced
- 1 cup fresh dill, chopped
- 1 cup parsley, chopped
- 1 cucumber, unpeeled, seeded and medium diced
- 1/2 cup red onion, small dice
- 3/4 pound feta cheese, large diced

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.

Bring a large pot of water to a boil.

Add 1 TBSP. of salt and a splash of oil.

Add the orzo and simmer 9 to 11 minutes, stirring occasionally, until al dente. Drain; place in large bowl.

Whisk together the lemon juice, 1/2 cup olive oil, 2 tsp. salt and 1 tsp pepper.

Pour over the hot pasta; stir well.

Place the shrimp on a sheet pan, drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with salt and pepper.

Toss to combine and spread in a single layer.

Roast 5 to 6 minutes or until the shrimp are cooked through. DO NOT OVERCOOK.

Add the shrimp to the orzo; add the scallions, dill, parsley, cucumber, onion, 2 tsp. salt and 1 tsp. pepper. Toss well.

Add feta and stir carefully.

Set aside at room temperature for 1 hour to allow flavors to blend, or refrigerate overnight. If refrigerated, taste again for seasonings and bring back to room temp. before serving.

Serves 6.

Spicy Broiled Tautog

- 2 lbs. skinless tautog fillets
- 2 TBSP. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 TBSP. soy sauce
- 2 TBSP. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 dash hot pepper sauce
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- Salt to taste

Place fish in salt water; let it soak for 30 minutes.

Wash well, then rinse and pat dry with paper towels.

Cut the fillets in single portions and place in a well greased baking pan.

Mix olive oil, soy sauce, Worcestershire sauce, paprika, chile and garlic powder and hot pepper sauce.

Pour sauce over fillets.

Broil 4 inches from the heat source for 5 minutes; turn the fillets, baste with the sauce and broil an additional 3 to 5 minutes or until fish flakes easily.

Serve with lemon wedges.

Serves 4-6.

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John Neblett of Mechanicsburg, PA was fishing in the Indian River Inlet when he hooked this 41-inch striper on a Calcutta lure. The big linesider weighed in at 24 lbs. 8 oz. on the scale at Bill's Sport Shop.



Before the spring closure of tautog season, Bill Wiest nailed this 7 lb. 9 oz. tog while fishing in the Delaware Bay on the "Katy Did". Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.



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Delaware Fishing Report

by Larry Jock



It was a rough weekend of fishing for anglers all along Delmarva due to a Nor'easter bringing windy weather to the coast.

Flounder

Flounder fishing was tough due to dirty water conditions. According to Bert at Hook'em & Cook'em, a few flatties were caught on Saturday by anglers fishing at Massey's Ditch and near the Coast Guard Station. The Gulp! artificial baits, cut herring and minnows were the baits of choice.

Up in Lewes, Capt. Joe Morris at Lewes Harbour Marina said that the Canal Flounder Tournament was a great success with 360 anglers participating. This was the most anglers ever in this tournament with fishing limited to the Lewes Canal and Broadkill River. Twenty percent of the fees were donated to the Camp Awareness Youth Program that promotes education about outdoor activities to young people in the area.

Zach Becker took first place with a 6.11 lb. flounder, while Jim Joseph won second place with a 5.48 pounder and Dan Baldwin's 4.82 lb. flatie ended up in third place.

Striped Bass

Although striped bass action



Frank Gaworski and Bob McNamee were casting Tsunami shads in shallow water along Broadkill Beach when they hooked this 3 lb. 7 oz. weakfish and a 4 lb. 12 oz. flounder. Weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

from the surf between Gordon's Pond and Cape Henlopen was down a little from the previous week, it was still excellent for anglers fishing with fresh bunker and clams. Capt. Joe said that the morning hours remained the best time.

Bill at Bill's Sport Shop and Bert at Hook'em & Cook'em both reported good striped bass action in the Indian River Inlet prior to

Thursday night. Stripers continued to be hooked every night up to Thursday, then the Nor'easter really kicked up the wind. On Friday night, a few more stripers were caught, but not much happened over the weekend.

Capt. Joe said that some stripers were landed along the Outer Wall and the Ice Breakers in the Delaware Bay. Anglers tossing Bombers, bucktails, Rat-L-Traps, Storm shads and Stretch 12 plugs right before sundown did well.

Bluefish

Capt. Bruce at Capt. Mac's High Performance Tackle in Fenwick said that the front-end of the storm on Thursday some larger bluefish were caught by surfcasters off the beach. The fish measured between 28 and 32-inches. Capt. Bruce said that a couple of stripers were also mixed in.

Black Drum

The weeks leading into June's full moon are typically the best weeks for drum fishing in the Delaware Bay and it looks like it is right on schedule for this

season, especially around the Coral Beds.

The big news was Colby Hastings's 124 cm (48.8-inches) black drum caught while fishing on the "Lil' Angler II" that is now a pending I.G.F.A. All Tackle Length Live Release World Record. The fish beat Dr. Julie Ball's previous record set at 122 cm.

The heaviest black drum weighed in at Lewes Harbour Marina came at the hands of Kyle McLaughlin with a 69.3 pounder muscled in at the Coral Beds while using clams for bait. Right behind Kyle was Kathy Rodgers' 67.7 lb. bruiser that was also caught at the Coral Beds on a chunk of clam.

Trout

According to Capt. Joe, weakfish have been more plentiful than in past seasons, especially for anglers fishing the shallow water in small boats and off the beach between Roosevelt Inlet and Broadkill Beach. Most of the fish are between 12 and 16-inches and are being caught on artificials such as, Bass Assassin, Tsunami, Fin-S, D.O.A. and Gulp! soft baits.

Joe Ribinsky at Whitetail Taxidermy & Outdoor Supplies emailed me to report anglers catching weakfish off Broadkill Beach while using peeler crabs and "good ole' Delmarva Chicken".

Lewes Harbour Marina's own Mac McNaught caught himself a 20-inch speckled trout while fly fishing inside Cape Henlopen.

Tautog

Delaware's tautog season is closed right now and reopens on July 17th.

Sea Bass

On May 18th, an emergency regulation was issued by DNREC Secretary Collin O'Mara to open the sea bass season in Delaware on May 19th, three days earlier than scheduled. Unfortunately, the horrible weather prevented anglers from taking advantage of the situation, but kudos to the State for putting the measure through, giving Delaware anglers the same opening day as those in Maryland and Virginia. The minimum size has been set at 12.5-inches with anglers allowed to keep 25 fish per day.

Until next week, tight lines!

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<p>3rd Annual Memorial Day Bluefish Tournament Chairman: Franky Pettolina Registration: May 25, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) May 26 & May 27 Awards Banquet: May 27, 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>	<p>33rd Annual Small Boat Tournament Chairman: Bill Regan Registration: June 22, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) June 23 & June 24 Crab Feast/Awards Banquet: June 24, 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>	<p>30th Annual Canyon Kick Off Tournament Chairman: Franky Pettolina Registration: June 28, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (2 of 3) June 29 & 30, July 1 Awards Banquet: July 2, 1-3 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i> Free to all OCMC Boat members</p>	<p>8th Annual Kids' Classic Chairmen: Bill Regan, Annette Cropper, & Pat Svehla Registration: July 20, 7:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 or 2 of 2) July 21 & July 22 Cook-Out: July 21, 6:30 p.m. for Wish-A-Fish Kids Carnival & Awards Banquet: July 22, 5-8 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>
<p>4th Annual OCMC Ladies' Tournament Chairmen: Franky Pettolina & Amanda Shick Registration: August 2, 6 p.m. Fishing Days: (1 of 2) August 3 & August 4 Awards Banquet: August 4, 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>	<p>54th Annual Labor Day White Marlin Tournament Chairmen: Bob Wimbrow & Bill Fenwick Registration: August 30, 6:30 p.m. Fishing Days: (2 of 3) August 31, September 1 & 2 Awards Banquet: September 2 • Luau & Pig Roast 6:30-9 p.m. <i>You do not need to be a member of OCMC to participate in this tournament</i></p>		<p>34th Annual Challenge Cup Chairman: Jon C. Duffie Registration: September 13, 7 p.m. Fishing Days: (2 of 2) September 14 & September 15 Italian Night: September 14, 6:30-9 p.m. Awards Banquet: September 15, 6:30-9 p.m. By OCMC Invitation Only</p>

Ship To Shore

by Pat Schrawder



Three New Features in GPS/Plotters

It's not often that manufacturers come out these days with totally new products. Instead they develop enhancements to those already on the market. And so this season we are seeing three such features starting to become popular. The first is the "built-in" or "internal" GPS antenna.

At first glance, you would never notice the change. There is nothing that sticks out of the display unit. This small change saves a lot of time in installation, however. There is no conventional mushroom shaped antenna on the top of the boat with wires running into the display. My

experience with some of these is that they work pretty well, even on installations where the main unit is flush mounted. In spite of that, there must be some instances where signal strength is expected to be marginal since the manufacturers have also included an external antenna as an option.

Similarly, the advance of touch screen display units is increasing. The software operation of these appears to be very similar regardless of brand name. Some boaters feel this touch screen makes the unit easier to use but I find that to be a matter of personal preference. Like the internal antennas, the manufacturers must recognize the disadvantage of touch screen in some instances as they have

mostly designed units that have a rotary or touchpad override. If you think about it, there are times when your hands are slopped up with bait, or the seas are very rough and you are having trouble just standing, let alone touching the right place on a screen. In addition, there are instances where the rotary knob is a faster way of adjusting items like range or gain.

The last of the three enhancements is the built-in chart cartography. Not all units use the same charting provider. For example, Garmin has its own, Simrad uses Insight Cartography and Furuno uses NOAA Raster Charts. People have different preferences on these. But just like the internal antennas and the touch screen displays, they have realized that consumers may still prefer a better and sometimes more detailed chart so most units now provide a way of accepting a chart card (SD chip, etc.) from a charting

company like Navionics or C-Map to install in the display.

So how do these new features stack up? The jury is out on that as they are fairly new on the boating scene. Time will tell if these touch screens hold up over the long run and if the internal GPS antennas do a credible and consistent job for most areas in reliably picking up 3 or more satellites. Insofar as the built-in cartography, that is just a matter of choice.

One thing is certain; however, unless there are major technical problems that cannot be solved, these features will become standard in time. Right now they may cause the price of a unit to increase but that too will change.

Pat and her husband, Larry are owners of L&L Marine Electronics on Golf Course Road in West Ocean City, MD.

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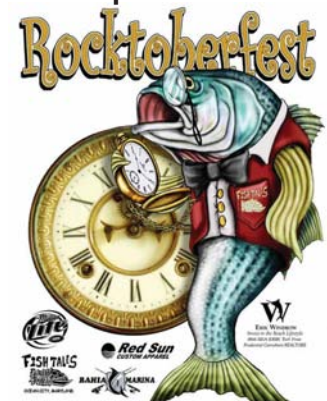


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Chum Lines

by Capt. Mark Sampson



"Sustainable fishing" is a term that seems to be popping up more and more these days. It's usually used to reference a particular fishery and whether or not the actions of the participants in that fishery are making a negative impact on the population of whatever species they're fishing for. Obviously, if you're a fisherman it's good to be involved in a sustainable fishery, otherwise your days of doing what you're doing and catching what you're catching are numbered, and one of two things are going to happen - either some entity is going to regulate that you "stop that!" or whatever critter you're catching is simply going to cease-to-be.

Neither alternative is a very good outcome for the short or long

term.

Whether or not a fishery is sustainable is the result of how efficient fishermen are at catching their quarry and how many fishermen are actually trying. If a species is easy to catch, but there are very few fishermen catching them, it might not be any more of a problem than if the fish were hard to catch and lots of anglers were trying - either way it's good for the fish. On the other hand, an unsustainable fishery would occur where the fish come easy and lots of fishermen are plucking away at them - certainly not something any fish would want to be a part of, particularly if they have dreams of seeing their little grandfishes off to school someday.

I don't want to hurt anyone's ego here, but rarely are recreational anglers blamed for creating an unsustainable fishery, because even though there are a lot of us, we're really not all that good at catching the huge numbers of fish it takes to make much of a lasting dent in populations. We certainly play a part, but when you consider the recreational catch to the numbers of fish taken by the commercial industry, in a lot of fisheries our contribution to the demise is pretty insignificant.

But once a population has been rendered down to an unsustainable level, it really doesn't matter who put it there, at that point the important thing to focus on is what can and must be done to bring the numbers of fish back to where they need to be. Even if we didn't create the problem we all have to be a part of the solution. The best bet is not to let things get out of hand in the first place, and with good science, regulations,

compliance and enforcement that shouldn't happen. Unfortunately, it does happen because having a management plan that has all four of those qualities firing at the same time is usually more of a dream than reality. Sustainability is a tough goal to reach in any fishery.

I bring all this up now because Delmarva's shark season is just getting started. Already, angler's chum lines have lured in makos, threshers and lots of blue sharks. With average water temperatures now around 60-degrees, I expect it won't be long before sandbars, duskies and a few other species will start showing up as well. These days someone would have to be living under a rock not to be aware that shark populations around the world are in peril. Thanks to an insatiable demand by certain Asian countries for shark fins, sharks are being caught around the world in numbers far greater than these animals are able to reproduce. Globally, the shark fishery is a poster child for an unsustainable fishery and if things don't change and shark populations aren't allowed to rebound, the health of our planet's oceans could be compromised. Yea, it's "that" important!

Things are better for sharks here in the states because we have at least some measure of regulations to help conserve the ones that travel through our waters. The problem is, since many of these sharks are very migratory, after they leave our coastline they too often end up in the uncontrolled waters of other countries and before they know it they're floating around in a bowl of shark-fin soup at a Chinese wedding.

The average U.S. citizen can only do so much to help sharks outside of our country. They can vote the right people into office, don't support countries that are major players in the uncontrolled shark-fin industry and support conservation groups working on the problem. However, as

recreational shark fishermen we have even more power to make an impact on shark populations and that impact can be positive or negative depending upon our own ethics and level of concern for the health of the resource and desire to help ensure a sustainable fishery.

First we have to recognize that recreational shark fishing is pretty much a catch-and-release fishery, because even if a group goes offshore with a primary goal of bringing home a shark for the freezer, they're only allowed to keep one per-boat and in the process of trying to catch that one shark, they'll likely land a number of others that will either be too small or not the right species. Since the number of sharks released each year by recreational anglers is quite significant, the importance of those fish surviving the catch-and-release process cannot be overstated.

The good news is that, at least on the outside, sharks are pretty tough birds; with their tough skin and a skeleton of cartilage that can withstand a beating that would be the end for other fish. The bad news is that their insides are not so tough and when over-stressed during long fights or if impaled in the gut by a deep-set hook they might die even after what anglers think was a healthy release. Anglers can minimize these issues by using circle-hooks to avoid gut-hooking, keeping fight time to a minimum by using appropriate tackle and fighting techniques, not removing sharks from the water and never lifting or dragging sharks by their tail.

As a director of the Ocean City Shark Tournament I was questioned last year by a number of anglers who were skeptical about some of the new rules we put into place that added a higher level of conservation to our event. Increased minimum sizes meant less sharks would be brought to the dock, and the requirement that only circle-hooks be used meant that the

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Fish Finder Adventures




sharks released would have a better chance of survival. It was a win-win for sharks, and even though some anglers might not realize it, it was a win for them as well, because with so many of them being schooled for the first time about the effectiveness of circle-hooks and safe handling and release techniques, the effort brought us all a couple small steps closer to the goal of sustainable shark fishing and the perpetuation of our sport.

This year the same conservation measures will again be taken in our tournament, and thanks to the continued support by the Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation for our Release Division, the prize money in that category has been raised by yet another \$4,000 bringing it to a total of \$19,000. Add to that the expected payout from the added entry levels and it's easy to see how the incentive to release is going to be stronger than ever this year.

U.S. recreational fishermen cannot be blamed for the

demise of shark populations around the globe, and while most of us don't have the means to travel abroad to help put an end to it in other countries, we certainly have the power to at least make life better for those sharks that swim within our borders. Short-sighted anglers who claim that it's too much of an "imposition" to change their tackle and technique just to help save a few sharks should stay out of the fishery altogether. It's that kind of thinking that has put today's shark populations in so much peril. Those who limit their harvest and fish with the tools and desire to help ensure that what they release will swim off with the best chance for survival will be doing their part to help make shark fishing sustainable.

Captain Mark Sampson is an outdoor writer and captain of the charter boat "Fish Finder", docked at the Ocean City Fishing Center.



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Breen wins MSSA/OPA Flounder Frenzy



On the first day of the 2-day MSSA/Ocean Pines Anglers Club Flounder Frenzy, Tom Breen of Red Lion, PA caught this 22.25-inch flounder and held on to win 1st place and a check for \$490. Tom was fishing on the "Flounderin' Around" with Budd Heim when he hooked the winning fish on a Gulp! and minnow combination around Harbour Island. Pictured at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.



Second place in the MSSA/Ocean Pines Anglers Club Flounder Frenzy was won by JoAnn Shelly of Ocean Pines, MD. JoAnn caught a 17.25-inch flattie while fishing on the "Whatever" with Dick, John and Paula Shelly. The fish was fooled with a shiner in the Thorofare and earned JoAnn a check for \$120. Pictured at the Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

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Corey Davies was black drum fishing at the Coral Beds when he boated this 66 pounder while fishing on the "Pirate King II" with Capt. Chris Ragni. The big boomer ate a clam and was weighed at Lewes Harbour Marina.

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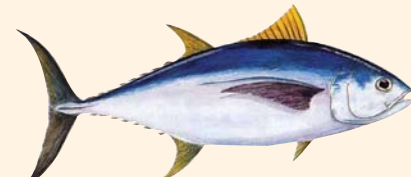
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The surf off Cape Henlopen State Park has been a hot spot for striper fishermen as shown by the 35-incher landed by Jim McElroy of Hughsville, PA. Jim used clams for bait and is pictured at Bill's Sport Shop.



Mike Snedaker from Selbyville, DE caught this pair of tautog while fishing off the Rt. 50 Bridge. The fish, measuring 17 and 19-inches, were hooked on green crabs.

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Virginia Fishing Report

Dr. Julie Ball
I.G.F.A Representative



Less than ideal weather conditions offered anglers few opportunities to get out on the water last week, and the northeasterly winds in the forecast could continue to curb efforts.

The highlight last week was that the overture to summer fishing is on track with the arrival of one of the most anticipated warm water residents, cobia. Sightings of cobia around the lower Bay were confirmed last weekend as anglers began to catch fish, with some pushing to over 50-inches.

The prospect of red and black drum continues to draw anglers to the Eastern Shore side of the Bay. Those who dodged the thunder storms to try their luck found the drum action a little slower last week.



Bill Keefer from Mechanicsburg, PA was fishing in Drawing Channel out of Wachapreague, VA when he caught his limit of flounder measuring between 18 and 21-inches. Bill was fishing with a modified Carolina Rig and is pictured at Hook'em & Cook'em in the Indian River Marina.

Red drum continue to pick at peelers and blue crabs late in the day presented along the breakers within the inlet of Fisherman's Island, and along Nautilus Shoal and the Nine-foot Shoal areas. Some reds are pushing to over 46-inches, but most are ranging from 40 to 44-inches right now. Justin Hurst of Suffolk took advantage of a lull in the weather last weekend, scoring some nice birthday reds for his nine-year-old son, Logan, who released two fish at 42 and 43-inches.

According to Mark at Chris' Bait and Tackle, although some larger fish are around, most of the black drum are ranging from 30-40 lbs. The best luck is coming from around Buoys 13 and 16 off Cape Charles, while the Nautilus Shoal area off Fisherman's Island was providing some catches before the latest front. Chowder clams and sea clams are the baits of choice

Nice striped bass are still patrolling the lower Bay shoals, often mixed in with the drum. The Chesapeake Bay spring striped bass season is now in effect, allowing anglers to keep two fish per person between 18 and 28-inches. One of the two fish can be over 32-inches. Be sure to read the regulations for clarification on these guidelines. Folks are also still finding good rockfish action along the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel, where topwater lures are getting the job done around all four artificial islands. The folks at Ocean's East 2 claim that many of these fish are healthy-sized, pushing to over 44-inches. Plastics are also working, but bluefish averaging around 5-pounds are often shredding soft lures. A few smallish grey trout are also still mixed in with the blues around the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel.

Flounder action in the bay is still not on fire, and large

amounts of rain and windy conditions are keeping the water muddy. The better catches are still coming from the inlets and protected waters, where a few nice fish are emerging from many throwbacks lately. The action within the seaside inlets and backwaters of the Eastern Shore were decent before the wind picked up last week.

Speckled trout anglers are still finding keeper fish inside Rudee Inlet, along with scattered grey trout and bluefish. The shallows and inlets along the Eastern Shore are also giving up some nice specks lately, with many fish ranging between 19 to 21-inches last week, especially inside Mobjack Bay.

Sheepshead are making their early season debut along the fishing grounds off of Kiptopeke, where fish weighing up to 11.5 lbs. were caught recently by anglers bottomfishing for drum. Nice sea mullet are also a nuisance for drum anglers in these same areas. Small to medium sized croaker are available all over the lower Bay, especially around the crossings and along the southern sections and shorelines of the Bay.

When weather conditions allow, deep dropping will attract anglers in search of nice sea bass, as folks take advantage of the re-opening of the season on the 19th this month.

The Carolina bluewater bite is still going on with yellowfin tuna, bull dolphin and good numbers of nice wahoo dominating the scene. Virginia boats are also finding some good action off the coast. Some warmer water near the 700-line gave up some nice yellowfin tuna ranging to around 40 lbs. Mike Avery of Hampton had a good trip on a recent overnigher when his crew aboard the "Seaduction" wrangled several yellowfin tuna, two makos, and even a keeper swordfish.

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Christine Maly from Baltimore, MD showed the boys how it is done, landing this 33-inch striper on fresh bunker while surfcasting off Assateague Island. Pictured at Buck's Place.



John Lindsay from Dagsboro, DE caught this 21 lb. 10 oz. striper on a golden bunker colored Storm lure off the end of the Indian River Jetty. Weighed at Hook'em & Cook'em.

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(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - must be reported with picture within 48 hours of catch)

Species	2012	2011	Species	2012	2011
Sea Bass 	None Reported	May 22, 2011 Tyler Sumpter "Keep 'Er' Wet" Jack Spot	Mako Shark 	April 29, 2012 Joseph Cangianelli "Reel Life" Baltimore Canyon	May 1, 2011 Brett Coakley "Wrangler" Washington Canyon
Tautog 	January 1, 2012 John Murter "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	January 6, 2011 Mike Grybos "Morning Star" Ocean Wreck	White Marlin 	None Reported	May 29, 2011 Anthony Pino "Marli" Rockpile
Striped Bass 	January 1, 2012 Josh Fallon "Patty Wagon II" Little Gull	April 14, 2011 Capt. Skip Maguire "Skip's Charter" Sinepuxent Bay	Blue Marlin 	None Reported	June 10, 2011 Stevie Ramsey "Lady Luck V" Baltimore Canyon
Weakfish 	May 12, 2012 Adam Ford Broadkill Beach	June 4, 2011 Paul Gillespie East Channel	Bluefin Tuna 	April 29, 2012 Mike Sears "Wrangler" Baltimore Canyon	May 1, 2011 Mike Sears "Wrangler" Washington Canyon
Flounder 	April 14, 2012 Aric Gilley "Martini Time" Thorofare	April 17, 2011 Tommy Fowler Thorofare	Yellowfin Tuna 	May 11, 2012 Eric Myers "Foolish Pleasures" Baltimore Canyon	May 26, 2011 Phil Falgowski Wilmington Canyon
Bluefish 	May 13, 2012 Big Bird Cropper Rt. 50 Bridge	May 1, 2011 Alex Levantovsky "Morning Star" Artificial Reef	Longfin Tuna 	None Reported	August 21, 2011 Al Rittmeyer "Dog Haus" Baltimore Canyon
Black Drum 	April 20, 2012 Lennie Foxwell Assateague Island	April 30, 2011 Melson MaGee Fenwick Surf	Bigeye Tuna 	None Reported	May 31, 2011 Aaron Saulsbury "Magic Moment" Washington Canyon
Sheepshead 	None Reported	May 7, 2011 Sheldon Thomas "Kimberly Ann" Winter Quarter Shoal	Dolphin 	May 1, 2012 Eric Polansky "Always Late Too" Baltimore Canyon	May 22, 2011 Daryl Bathelme Linden Kohl Canyon
Thresher Shark 	None Reported	May 25, 2011 Jimmy Bunting "B" Buoy	Wahoo 	None Reported	May 22, 2011 Dave Woods Linden Kohl Canyon

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200

LIGHTNING STRIKES TWICE ON LIL' ANGLER II

by Capt. Brian Wazlavek

On Saturday, May 12th, The "LIL' ANGLER II" departed Lewes, DE in search of black drum. It was a good night with several big boomers ending up in the cooler, led by Bobbi Jo Dean's 54.75 pounder. Little did we know that fish wouldn't be the largest of the night.

As darkness sets in, we're surrounded by other boats and nothing is happening. Suddenly, Colby Hastings of Seaford, DE sees a slight tap on a rod, picks it up and fish on! The fish is fighting hard, and running into the current. Colby is a novice to fishing, but is doing a fantastic job fighting the fish. To this point, the drum has done nothing spectacular, and our shields are down. Just then, the fish makes another run that keeps going. The rods are loaded with 30 lb. braid

with a little mono underneath. In the heat of battling this drum, the comment is made that the reel was now down to the mono backer. The mate tells Colby to tighten the drag slightly, but Colby did not understand, so the mate adjusts the drag. It is this innocent, yet critical motion that will burn us in the end and we don't even know it. The battle continues with several more drag adjustments, by both the mate and myself. The fish gets closer to the boat and breaks the surface, and making John's previous 54.75 pounder look like a minnow. At this point, I realize we could be the 'bug.' The fish is finally landed. It is huge.

The fish measures 122 centimeters, only one centimeter longer than the current world record held by Dr. Julie Ball of Virginia. To officially retire an old record, the new fish must measure 2 centimeters greater or it is considered a tie. In our case, the fish did not qualify for a tie because someone other than

the angler touched the reel, breaking IGFA regulations.

As luck would have it our trip a few days later would have similar excitement, but with a different ending.

The day started out with the "LIL' ANGLER II" departing her berth at Anglers Marina loaded with fresh surf clams from Lewes Harbour Marina. The 3:40 PM departure was a little later than I wanted but it all worked out well.

We arrived off Slaughter Beach and surprise, there were three boats already there and one was almost right on the spot where we caught our fish on Saturday night. We switched to Plan B, fishing a little further north in about 16 feet of water right along a steep drop off. Clams were shucked and lines were set. Fishing today was with a purpose, redemption from Saturday night. With me were Seth Hastings of Seaford DE, his brother Colby, John Meredith of Lincoln DE, and the Mate Jonathan Masten of

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Milford DE. All fished with me on Saturday when we almost set an IGFA record. After Saturday, everyone on board the "LIL' ANGLER II" understood all the IGFA rules for an All Tackle Length Live Release. The rules were reviewed again anyway.

The first hook up came about an hour after settling in, and was a clearnose skate caught by John. Seth then added a smooth dogfish.

A short time later, John sees something playing with the bait, and reels down. Fish on! After a few minutes of fighting the fish with a little give and take, John lands a 34 inch black drum. Not the size we wanted, but the right species. In the cooler it goes. The current slacks up and begins to ebb. The boat began to swing and it was time to move and reposition.

The "LIL' ANGLER II" is re-anchored and riding tight on the anchor line. After about 45 minutes, the boat in front of us hooks up and lands a

Continued on page 52

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puppy. The fish are booming all around us and the fish finder is lit up with fish. The current is picking up and it's Colby's turn to hook up and land a 26 pounder. In the box it goes. It seemed like keeping whole fresh bait on the rods was impossible. All the rods were showing signs of very light nibbles. Seth finally gets a hook in one, and after a short fight, it's brought aboard the boat, pictures are taken and into the cooler goes the boomer. This fish is 40-inches. John, Colby and Seth all have a fish on ice. Now it's time to get serious.

It's 10:05 PM, and Colby picks up a rod and feeds a little line to the fish at the other end. He reels down tight and the fish is on. The fish takes line, Colby gains it back, and this back and forth lasts for 25 minutes. Everyone remembers Saturday night, and careful attention is paid to the IGFA angling rules. Colby gets the fish to the side of the boat and it wants nothing to do with us

and our net. After some time, mate Jonathan Masten nets the beast and lifts it over the side. There is no doubt that this is the drum we wanted. The fish is quickly placed on the IGFA ruler and it comes in at 124 cm. No tie tonight since this fish beats Dr. Julie Ball's fish by 3 centimeters, one more than needed. Photos were taken in accordance with the IGFA standards, and the magnificent fish is released. Handshakes and congratulations all around.

We fished another 30 minutes and called it a night knowing it would be an early morning with paperwork to be done. Thursday morning the anglers and crew gathered at Lewes Harbour Marina to get last night's bounty cleaned, and for Colby and I to complete the application for IGFA record consideration. The paperwork was completed, notarized, and the entire package was delivered to the U.S. Postal Service. It is now over except for waiting to hear from the IGFA.



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Mazie Brinker of Newark, MD was fishing on "Carol's Teakettle" at the Bass Grounds when she caught this 18-inch tautog on a green crab. Mazie was fishing with her dad, Jim Brinker, her PopPop Tom Brinker and her Uncle Tim Brinker.



According to Joe Ribinsky, owner of Whitetail Taxidermy & Outdoor Supplies, anglers have been catching weakfish off Broadkill beach using peeler crabs and chicken. On this day, Joey Ribinsky, Andy Bowden and Drew Biener, all from Millsboro, DE caught their limit of weakies while fishing with chartreuse bucktails tipped with chicken. Photo courtesy of Whitetail Taxidermy & Outdoor Supplies.



Ed Jackman from Lock Haven, PA took advantage of the May black drum run along the coast, landing this 37-inch off the beach of Fenwick Island, DE. Photo courtesy of Fenwick Tackle.

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Straight from the Delaware Division of Fish & Wildlife

Atlantic menhaden, *Brevoortia tyrannus*, are not a sportfish, but they are a critical part of the food chain that supports our most popular sportfish. Atlantic menhaden are a member of the herring family, which includes many recreationally and commercially important species, such as American shad, alewife and blueback herring (collectively known as river herring), and Atlantic herring. Most anglers know the Atlantic menhaden, usually called bunker, as the top bait for striped bass and other sportfish. Anglers also know that finding the big Atlantic menhaden schools out in the bay or ocean is a great way to locate big sportfish. But anglers may not realize just how important the Atlantic menhaden is to the marine

ecosystem and how depleted the Atlantic menhaden population has become compared to a few decades ago. The decline in the Atlantic menhaden population has led to an effort to reduce landings and rebuild the population.

Atlantic menhaden are critically important to the marine ecosystem because they feed at the bottom of the food chain, mainly on phytoplankton (mostly single cell plant-like organisms), but grow large enough to be a major prey item of predators at the top of the food chain ranging from striped bass to bluefin tuna to whales. Atlantic menhaden feed by filtering phytoplankton from the water and their filter feeding helps reduce plankton blooms in nutrient-enriched systems like the Indian River Bay. They are

one of the few direct food chain links between our coastal marshes, tidal tributaries and coastal bays, where Atlantic menhaden often feed, along with the open ocean, where they school and are eaten by top predators. Atlantic menhaden feed on a food supply that is usually in high abundance and this food supply has often supported an amazing abundance of Atlantic menhaden.

Atlantic menhaden have supported important fisheries for centuries. They were used for fertilizer, lamp oil and occasionally food from precolonial times into the 19th century. The reduction fishery for menhaden began in the 1800's and menhaden became the first "industrial" fish as the menhaden were processed (reduced) to produce fishmeal and fish oil. Fishmeal is an important component of animal feeds and fish oil has many uses, but is best known for its use as the omega-3 fish oil in the supplements so widely consumed today.

The reduction fishery grew to a huge size in the mid-20th century with reduction plants common along the Atlantic Coast. Lewes, Delaware was home to one of the largest reduction plants in the United States and had the greatest tonnage of fish landings of any port in the USA in 1953 due to the 168,000 metric tons of Atlantic menhaden landed there that year.

Although the Atlantic menhaden reduction fishery contracted in the 1960's and has since been based entirely in Virginia, it accounts for most U.S. menhaden landings. Average annual landings in this fishery have been around 150,000 metric tons over the past ten years.

Atlantic menhaden also support a large bait fishery. They are not only a very

important bait for sportfish, but they are the main bait used in the blue crab fisheries of the Mid-Atlantic and have been increasing in use as bait in the lobster fishery in New England. The bait fishery has averaged landings of around 40,000 metric tons a year for the past ten years.

Atlantic menhaden abundance seemed limitless in the past and there seemed to be enough Atlantic menhaden in the ocean to support both the fisheries and all the predators that depended on the species as their main food source. However, there have been disturbing signs in recent years suggesting that the menhaden abundance has been in a steep decline from its peak levels of the early 1980's. The most recent stock assessment of Atlantic menhaden, conducted by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) in 2010, found that while the stock was not overfished, overfishing was occurring and this could lead to a further decline in the population over time. The ASMFC Atlantic Menhaden Management Board voted to take action to reduce fishing pressure in 2011. The Board wants to rebuild the Atlantic menhaden stock to a level equivalent to 15% of the Maximum Spawning Potential (MSP). This means that fishing mortality will have to be reduced until the Atlantic menhaden population size reaches a level that is considered to have 15% of the egg production of an unfished Atlantic menhaden stock.

The reductions in Atlantic menhaden landings needed to reach 15% MSP could be steep and take a number of years to complete the rebuilding. The Atlantic menhaden Interstate Fisheries Management Plan (ISFMP) Addendum V is currently out for public comment. Hearings will be held in each state requesting public input on the number of years that should be allowed for rebuilding and the methods that should be used to reduce the total catch. The proposed methods for reducing catch

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Mike Bott from Lewes, DE took advantage of a good striper bite at the Delaware Seashore State Park, where he landed this pair of striped bass while using fresh bunker for bait. The largest fish measured 43-inches and tipped the scale at 27 lbs. 15 oz. at Bill's Sport Shop.

include gear restrictions, seasonal closures and regional quotas. There will also be discussion of whether to cut both the reduction and bait fisheries by equal percentages. The hearing schedule has not yet been released.

So, after all that background, you may wonder how this reduction in the commercial Atlantic menhaden landings will affect anglers? If the rebuilding schedule is short, there will need to be substantial cutbacks in the landings of both the reduction and bait commercial fisheries and thus there will be less Atlantic menhaden available for bait. These cutbacks will likely lead to an increase in

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price for bait and problems with availability. However, the cutbacks to big Atlantic menhaden bait fisheries in Virginia and New Jersey could be partially offset by increases in the Atlantic menhaden bait landings in states such as Delaware. Delaware's current menhaden landings are such a small part of total coastwide landings that they could be increased substantially without running afoul of the ISFMP. Hopefully, the supply problems will be short-lived and the Atlantic menhaden stock will soon be rebuilt to a level where it supports the food chain and our fisheries.

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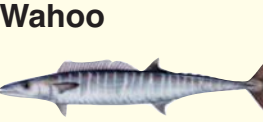






2012 COASTAL FISHERMAN 2012

Heaviest Fish of the Year

(As reported to the Coastal Fisherman - ties go to first fish reported)

Species	Ocean City	Delaware	Species	Ocean City	Delaware
Sea Bass 	Season Closed	Season Closed	Mako Shark 	May 5, 2012 Anthony Cichocki Marine Electric 197 lbs.	April 29, 2012 Joseph Cangianelli Baltimore Canyon 96.2 lbs.
Tautog 	January 11, 2012 Charlie Donohue "Morning Star" 23 lbs.	April 21, 2012 Clark Koehn Delaware Bay Reef 17 lbs.	Thresher Shark 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Striped Bass 	February 10, 2012 John Rogowitz Little Gull 41 lbs.	April 28, 2012 Sean Tate Bethany Surf 41 lbs.	Bluefin Tuna 	April 29, 2012 Mike Sears Baltimore Canyon 70 lbs.	NEW May 13, 2012 Ron Steen Baltimore Canyon 79.1 lbs.
Weakfish 	No Weights Reported	May 12, 2012 Adam Ford Broadkill Beach 6 lbs. 2 oz.	Yellowfin Tuna 	NEW May 13, 2012 Amanda Matarese "Reel Chaos" 50 lbs.	May 13, 2012 Jeff Griffin Baltimore Canyon 37 lbs.
Speckled Trout 	No Weights Reported	May 7, 2012 Tony Diesel Indian River Inlet 2 lbs. 10 oz.	Longfin Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Flounder 	April 14, 2012 John Brockmeyer Behind OC Airport 8 lbs. 4 oz.	April 29, 2012 Steven Warren Indian River Inlet 5 lbs. 13 oz.	Bigeye Tuna 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Bluefish 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Dolphin 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Sheepshead 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported	Wahoo 	No Weights Reported	No Weights Reported
Golden Tilefish 	NEW May 12, 2012 Brian Shulman Washington Canyon 35 lbs.	No Weights Reported	White Marlin 	Most Releases in One Day None Reported	None Reported

For a copy of this page or to report your catch, call the Coastal Fisherman at 410-213-2200



While surf fishing off 3R's Road in Delaware, Rory Schuster of Dagsboro, DE landed this 42-inch striped bass using fresh bunker for bait. The fish weighed 25 lbs. 11 oz. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em Outfitters in South Bethany.



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Philip Sclossman used fresh bunker to fool this 40-inch striper while fishing from the surf off Fenwick Island, DE. The linesider weighed 26 lbs. 5 oz. on the scale at Fenwick Tackle.



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Maryland & Delaware Citation Sizes

Atlantic Coast

	<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>		<u>MD</u>	<u>DE</u>
Atlantic Spadefish	24"	-	Shark:		
Black Drum	48"	50 lbs. or 45"	Blue Shark *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Bluefish	34"	14 lbs. or 33"	Hammerhead *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Blue Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size	Mako *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Cobia	44"	-	Thresher *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Croaker	18"	3 lbs. or 19"	Tiger *	Any Size	100 lbs. or 66"
Dolphin	45"	15 lbs. or 41"	Swordfish	Any Size	Any Size
Flounder	24"	7 lbs. or 25"	Tautog	24"	7 lbs. or 25"
Golden Tilefish	28"	35 lbs. or 40"	Tuna:		
Kingfish (Northern Whiting)	14"	1 lb. or 13"	Longfin Albacore	36"	30 lbs. or 32"
King Mackerel	40"	10 lbs. or 36"	False Albacore	24"	12 lbs. or 26"
Red Drum *	Any Size	45"	Bigeye ***	60"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sailfish *	Any Size	-	Bluefin ***	60"	100 lbs. or 60"
Seabass	20"	3 lbs. or 17"	Yellowfin ***	50"	70 lbs. or 48"
Sheepshead	20"	8 lbs. or 22"	Wahoo	60"	35 lbs. or 40"
Spanish Mackerel	22"	5 lbs. or 22"	Weakfish	24"	20 lbs. or 50"
Speckled Trout	24"	-	White Marlin **	Any Size	Any Size
Striped Bass	40"	30 lbs. or 40"			

* Only released fish are eligible in Maryland program

*** Use curved-fork-length measurements

** Only released fish are eligible in MD and DE programs

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It looks like Scott Klos of Forrest Hill, MD is offering up his 36-inch striper to the "Fish Gods" after hooking it on fresh bunker from the beach off Fenwick Island. Photo courtesy of Fenwick Tackle.



Jagger Rugg from Wilmington, DE caught his first striped bass while trolling off Bethany Beach, DE. The fish was caught on a chartreuse mojo and weighed 15 lbs. on the scale at Hook'em & Cook'em.

HAVE A PHOTO OF YOUR CATCH?

Email it to the Coastal Fisherman at

coastalfisherman@comcast.net

Include in the email:

Angler's name & town

Names & towns of others in photo

Weight and/or length of fish

Bait or lure used

Location of catch

Please send the photo file at full size.

Do not compress it and do not run it through any photo software.

KEYS TO TAKING A GOOD FISH PICTURE:

- Have the angler face into the sun to minimize shadows.
- Make sure the side of the fish is facing flat towards the camera.
- Set your camera to the best quality and largest picture size available.
- **DO NOT use a cell phone camera.**
- Shoot vertical photos
- Smile!

*As always, we do our best to run the pictures we receive; however, we are sometimes unable to run all of the pictures due to space restrictions and other circumstances.

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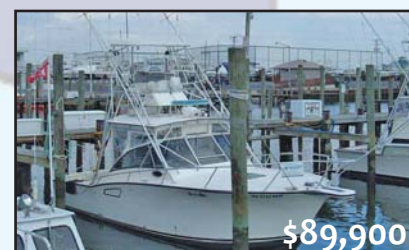
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